



To: Senator Joseph Baldacci, Senate Chair of the State and Local Government Committee
Representative Suzanne Salisbury, House Chair of the State and Local Government Committee
Distinguished Members of the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government

Date: January 21st, 2026

RE: LD 1383 - *An Act To Require the State To Divest Itself of Assets Invested in Corporations That Contribute to Genocide and Human Rights Abuses*

Senator Baldacci, Representative Salisbury, and distinguished members of the State and Local Government Committee,

My name is Kage Johnson, and I am a resident of Winslow, Maine. I am here today testifying in favor of LD 1383 on behalf of Healing First!, a Maine-based transformative justice collective led by survivors of serious harm, including sexual assault, intimate/domestic partner violence, and gun violence. Healing First! serves as the Maine state chapter of the global coalition, Survivors For Justice Reform, and is a member organization of the Maine Coalition for Peace and Human Rights. We are in full and earnest support of LD 1383.

As a group of survivors of egregious harm—*We stand firmly against the perpetuation of all types of harm*. We do not support our tax dollars being utilized to contribute to inhumane detention, apartheid, ethnic cleansing, genocide, and war crimes, nor do we support anyone or any entity profiting from violence and oppression. For the last few years, we have watched in absolute horror as our tax dollars have directly funded the weapons utilized in the genocide of Palestinians and the abduction, transport of, and inhumane detention of people—including US citizens, legal and non-legal alike—without due process.

When it comes to how tax dollars are spent—*the consent of your constituents matters*. We do not consent to our tax dollars benefitting any corporations profiting from inhumane detention, apartheid, ethnic cleansing, genocide, and war crimes.

There is another path forward—a clear alternative. Maine set a precedent for an ethical way forward when it divested from the apartheid system in South Africa and from Sudan following the Darfur genocide. With LD1383 in place, investments that contribute to any country or government committing grave human rights violations would be illegal. This would ensure that our state remains aligned with its values and constitution and avoids contribution liability in international law.

There is no shortage of options—ethical options that do not violate human rights—for Maine to invest in. *Maine's state resources should be refocused and directed toward supporting the needs of our local communities, right here at home, as opposed to funding human rights violations and war crimes across the world and in our own communities.*

I passionately restate Healing First!'s position of being in full support of LD 1383. There is simply no justification for Maine to invest its precious state resources into any corporations that assist governments in directly violating human rights.

We urge you to invest our state resources into ethical options that support healthy and whole communities—and not in funding the destruction of human beings—by voting in favor of LD 1383. On behalf of Healing First!, we thank you for your time and consideration.

With gratitude,

Kage Johnson

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Healing First!
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